

Turner



Urban District of Whittlesey

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

AND THE

Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR

1957.

OFFICERS OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Medical Officer of Health:

D.C.Logan, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Public Health Inspector:

D.A.Bamford, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

OFFICES OF THE WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
6, Delph Street,
Whittlesey.

Telephone No. Whittlesey 2312-3

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area in acres	23, 362
Number of Inhabited Houses	2, 959
Rateable Value (at 31.12.57.)	£85, 423
Product of ld. rate (at 31.3.57.)	£365. 10s. 11d.
Population (Registrar General's figures).	8, 840

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
 WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,


I submit herewith my Annual Report for 1957 together with the Report of the Public Health Inspector. It gives me much pleasure to record that I have had most willing help from Mr. Bamford and from Mrs Tyers in the department.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

D. C. LOGAN.

Medical Officer of Health.



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VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	101	69	170
Illegitimate.	6	2	8
	—	—	—
Total :	107	71	178
	—	—	—

Live Birth Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population	20.15
Adjusted Live Birth Rate - per 1,000 estimated population	20.15
England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population	16.1

STILLBIRTHS.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	-	2	2
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	—	—	—
Total :	-	2	2
	—	—	—

Stillbirth Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 live and still births	11.11
England and Wales - per 1,000 live and still births	22.4

DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE.

	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Legitimate.	2	-	2
Illegitimate.	-	-	-
	—	—	—
Total :	2	-	2
	—	—	—

Infant Mortality Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 Live Births	11.23
England and Wales - per 1,000 Live Births	23.0

This rate is less than half the average for England and Wales this year and this compensates for last year's figure which was slightly above. There were two deaths of infants under one year, one was associated with maldevelopment and early death and the other was due to acute gastro enteritis.

Nec Natal Death Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 Live Births	5.6
England and Wales - per 1,000 Live Births	16.5

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Infectious diseases do not play such a big part in medical practice as they did some years ago. Diphtheria has now become a rare disease owing to the early immunisation of children. Fewer cases of whooping cough are now being reported for the same reason.

One case of food poisoning was reported but all efforts to trace the source of infection were unsuccessful.

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases of infectious diseases were notified during 1957 :-

<u>Disease</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	<u>Total.</u>
Measles	40	40	80
Pneumonia	9	3	12
Scarlet Fever	3	2	5
Whooping Cough	2	1	3
Erysipelas	1	2	3
Tuberculosis (Pulmonary)	2	2	4
Tuberculosis (Non. Pulmonary)	1	-	1
Non-paralytic poliomyelitis	-	1	1
Encephalitis	1	-	1
Food Poisoning	1	-	1
Total :			<hr/> 111 <hr/>

DEATHS (ALL CAUSES)

Male. 40 Female. 32 Total. 72

Death Rate -

Whittlesey Urban District - per 1,000 estimated population 8.14
Adjusted Death Rate - per 1,000 estimated population 8.95
England and Wales - per 1,000 estimated population 11.5

Causes of Deaths in the Whittlesey Urban District, as supplied
by the Registrar General for 1957 :-

	<u>Male</u>	<u>Female</u>
Tuberculosis, respiratory	-	-
Tuberculosis, other	-	-
Syphilitic disease	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-
Meningococcal infections	-	-
Acute poliomyelitis	-	-
Measles	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	2	2
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	3	1
Malignant neoplasm, breast	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	2	4
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-
Diabetes	1	-
Vascular lesions of nervous system	9	10
Coronary disease, angina	6	4
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
Other heart disease	9	3
Other circulatory disease	1	-
Influenza	-	-
Pneumonia	1	3
Bronchitis	1	-
Other diseases of respiratory system	-	-
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis, and diarrhoea	1	-
Nephritis and nephrosis	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	1	-
Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	-	-
Motor vehicle accidents	-	-
All other accidents	-	-
Suicide	1	-
Homicide and operations of war	-	-
Total :	40	32

TO: THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE
 WHITTLESEY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my second Annual Report on the work carried out in the year 1957.

The year has been one of preparation for clearing sub-standard houses. The Council's Slum Clearance Scheme was revised and re-submitted to the Minister of Housing & Local Government. The re-housing of tenants from condemned houses is gradually beginning and it is hoped that this will soon speed up to deal with the cases which have accumulated during the past 17 years.

There are many houses, which, although substantially sound, are allowed to deteriorate due to a failure to carry out minor repairs. Often the tenant does not inform the owner; in some cases the owner is not willing, sometimes not able, to spend money on the houses. Very few tenants indeed approach the Council to ask for official action under the Public Health or Housing Acts to have defects remedied.

The support received from the Public Health Committee and the Medical Officer of Health has been much appreciated. I have to thank the Clerk of the Council and the Surveyor for their help and also Mrs Tyers for her assistance in carrying out the work in the department.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

D.A. BAMFORD.

Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER SUPPLY.

Three samples of mains water were submitted for bacteriological examination, all were classed as satisfactory.

Frequent orthotolidine tests were carried out on the water supply and in all cases a satisfactory amount of free chlorine was found to be present.

The Town's water is purchased from Peterborough Corporation.

Total consumption 1957	95, 546, 000 gallons
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Average daily consumption	261, 769 gallons
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It is estimated that 2,715 houses are supplied with water either direct to the house or by means of stand-pipes. Many houses in the town area are still supplied from stand-pipes.

SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

There is a steady trickle of old properties being connected to the sewer as houses with vaults and pails which can be connected are converted to water lavatories.

There are still many owners of properties who have not taken advantage of the sewerage schemes. Surprisingly some of these are owner/occupiers who cannot see the advantages of a water lavatory over the pail bucket although the latter has to be emptied in the garden at regular intervals.

NIGHTSOIL COLLECTION.

The Council undertake emptying of pails, vaults and cesspools from properties where no sewer is available. This work is let by Contract annually.

278 pails are emptied three times in every 14 days. There were 131 cesspools and vaults emptied during the year.

Although several complaints were received there has been an improvement in this service.

REFUSE COLLECTION.

Household and trade refuse is collected by two vehicles. The large Shelvoke & Drewry vehicle is manned by a driver and three loaders and collects trade refuse and household refuse in the town area, giving a weekly service. The Dennis vehicle is manned by a driver and one loader and collects household refuse from the outside areas. Built up areas such as Coates and Eastrea have a weekly service, other areas have a three weekly service.

The collections were extremely regular, and very few complaints were received. This is without doubt due to the good service given by the foreman and the collectors. As a result of Christmas Holidays three and a half working days were lost. It was agreed to advertise in the local press to give notice of the delays that would result and householders were asked to co-operate by burning, or keeping separate, newspapers, boxes and wrappings. An effort was made to collect as much refuse as possible before the holiday to try to cut down the number of houses which were affected.

REFUSE DISPOSAL.

This year the tip reached the end of the field adjoining the railway. Netting screens were erected to prevent paper blowing over the lines and these screens have proved successful. A narrow face was used to seal off the end of the field and this was completed by the end of the year.

A complaint was received that flies from the tip were causing a nuisance, a thorough investigation was made with a representative from the British Transport Commission and no nuisance was found.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are two registered common lodging houses. The registration of one of these was delayed until some necessary re-decorating was carried out. The other one has been well maintained.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

Thirteen single sites are registered and are satisfactory.

Cheshire's Yard is the only camp with Planning Permission. This site is well kept and of a good standard.

The other three sites are of a poor standard and although improvements have been made to them as far as required under existing legislation, the sites are far from satisfactory due to overcrowding and the use of bus bodies instead of proper caravans.

INSPECTIONS.

The following table summarises the inspections made in 1957 :-

	<u>Inspections</u>	<u>Informal Notices</u>	<u>Statutory Notices</u>
Cesspool, pail and vault work	31	5	-
Factories, Workshops and Bakehouses	37	3	-
Slaughterhouses and Butcher's Shops	573	-	-
Food Shops	48	7	-
Restaurants	17	-	-
Verminous and Filthy Premises	11	3	-
Housing	160	27	-
Nuisances	21	9	-
Rats and Mice	34	-	-
Caravan Sites	45	3	-
Refuse Collection and Disposal	58	1	-

Of the 58 informal notices served 47 were complied with.

DISINFESTATION AND DISINFECTION.

No infestation of bed bugs was reported or found.

One infestation of fleas was found and the premises treated.

HOUSING.

Number of Houses erected during 1957 :-

By Local Authority	4
By Private Enterprise	40

17 applications were received for Improvement Grants all of which were approved and received grants.

It was not possible to carry out any major slum clearance due to the small number of houses which were erected.

4 dwellings were dealt with by Demolition Orders and 2 were the subject of Closing Orders. 6 dwellings were demolished 3 of which were the subject of a Clearance Order made in 1938. 4 families were re-housed.

The Council submitted the Slum Clearance Scheme to the Minister of Housing & Local Government in which it is proposed to deal with 116 sub-standard houses in 5 years. This figure includes the 49 houses which are at present licensed for temporary occupation.

Of the dwellings which were subject to Clearance or Demolition Orders in 1938, 49 were licensed for occupation, until the 31st August 1957. An application was made to the Minister of Housing & Local Government for these licences to be extended for a period of three years. The application was granted.

RENT ACT, 1957.

This Act came into operation on the 6th July 1957. A sub-committee of six members was appointed to deal with applications and this cut down delays in issuing the necessary forms and certificates.

Six applications for certificates of disrepair were received, these were considered to be substantiated and notices of intention to issue certificates were served on the owners, in each case for some of the defects listed. Four Landlord's Undertakings to carry out the necessary repairs were accepted and two Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

The greatest difficulty in administering this Act is that of accepting applications with improperly made out 'Notice by Tenant to Landlord of Defects of Repair'. As the tenant has to complete this form many important items are omitted and extraneous items put in such as "Please make rent day every week, not every month".

In some cases the tenants, although previously instructed not to do so, have stated what work is necessary instead of stating what is defective and the forms have had to be re-served causing a delay of six weeks or more.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 & 1948.

Inspections made (under the Factories Act) for 1957.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	21	18	-	-
Factories in which Section 7 is enforced	43	19	-	-
Other Premises	6	7	-	-
TOTAL :	70	41	-	-

Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars	Found	Number of Cases in which Defects were found			Number of Cases in which Prosecutions were Instituted
		Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	by H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	-	-	-	-	-
Closet Unsuitable or Defective	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL :	-	-	-	-	-

OUTWORK SECTIONS 110 & 111

There are no outworkers in the district.

SECTION 34.

4 Certificates that Sufficient Means of Escape in Case of Fire were Provided were issued.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.

One Dealer's Licence was issued authorising the use of the special designation "Tuberculin Tested" and one Licence authorising the use of the special designation "Pasteurised".

Fourteen licences were issued authorising the use of the special designation "Sterilised".

The County Council's Officer regularly samples milk in this area. After receiving a complaint from a householder a sample of milk was taken and this proved unsatisfactory. Enquiries were made of the dealer and the bad sample was attributed to some feeding-stuff. Further samples taken by the County Officer proved satisfactory.

ICE-CREAM.

There are 30 premises registered for the sale of ice-cream; all the ice-cream being pre-packed. The only loose ice-cream sold in the area is sold from vehicles.

There is no ice-cream manufactured in the area.

CONDEMNED FOOD.

10 certificates were issued covering 14 items of foodstuffs which were voluntarily surrendered by shopkeepers.

It was not found necessary to seize any diseased or unsound food.

Condemned food is disposed of by burying in the Council's Refuse Tip.

Some meat from the Knacker's Yard is taken by a trader in cat and dog meat and sold in the district from a van. This meat is not stained.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are six licensed slaughterhouses one of which is only used occasionally for the slaughter of pigs. These slaughterhouses are conducted in a satisfactory manner.

KNACKERS YARD.

There is one licensed knackers yard which is satisfactory.

FOOD PREPARATION.

The standard of Food Premises is gradually improving, but there is room for improvement in food handling. In two cases food displayed outside the shop on the pavement was lower than eighteen inches from the ground.

Premises registered for the making up of food	11
Fish Friers	4
Bakehouses	3
Cafes	4
Other food shops	40
Public Houses	34

MEAT INSPECTION.

Ante-mortem inspection is not always possible and all carcasses were not inspected as during the holidays the stand-in Inspector from Thorney Rural District is on call when required.

Carcases and offal inspected and condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle (exclud- ing cows)	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed	182	-	1	500	989	-
Number inspected	170	-	1	451	938	-

All diseases except
Tuberculosis & Cysticerci

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	26	-	-	3	42	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci	14.28	-	-	0.6	4.24	-

Tuberculosis only

Whole carcasses condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	9	-	-	-	4	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	4.94	-	-	-	0.4	-

Cysticercosis

Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

MEAT CONDEMNED.

Bovines

3 heads and tongues, 3 sets of lungs, 1 liver,
2 parts of forequarters all affected with tuberculosis

	Total weight :-	
18 livers with distomatosis		207 lbs.
2 livers with abscesses		146 lbs.
2 livers with necrosis		28 lbs.
1 liver with fatty degeneration		40 lbs.
1 liver with inflammation		12 lbs.
1 head and tongue actinomycosis		14 lbs.
1 heart with inflammation		25 lbs.
		4 lbs.

Pigs.

4 pigs heads affected with tuberculosis	59 lbs.
19 livers with cirrhosis	71 lbs.
13 livers with hepatitis	57 lbs.
8 with bruising and fractures of legs	81 lbs.
1 pluck with inflammation	7 lbs.
1 liver with cysts	5 lbs.

Sheep

2 livers with distomatosis	6 lbs.
1 flank with abscesses	4 lbs.

